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California Law Review

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EDITORIAL NOTES

FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING OF CALIFORNIA BAR ASSOCIATION

The fourth annual meeting of the California Bar Association was held at San Diego, on November 20-22, 1913. The meeting was held midway between legislative sessions, and the discussion, therefore, of legal reforms was not so thorough as at the last annual meeting, an account of which is contained in the first volume of this Review.¹

The proposition that evoked the most discussion was the proposed constitutional convention. The opinion of the bar, as

¹ 1 California Law Review, 170.

represented at this meeting, was overwhelmingly against such convention. Cumbersome as our present organic act is, there was little hope that a simpler one would emerge from a new discussion. On the contrary, it seemed to be the opinion of most of those who spoke upon the subject that additional details were likely to be added, which would prove embarrassing to effective legislation.

The papers read before the Association were of more than usual interest. Two of them, because of their intrinsic importance and because of the interest attaching to their authorship, are reprinted in the present number of this Review. Another paper, which evoked much comment, was that by Mr. R. S. Gray, on "The Reorganization of the Bar as a Necessary Means to Justice." Mr. Gray took the position that many of the evils in the present administration of law were due to the fact that the trial lawyer is, by virtue of the fact of his private employment, too much a partisan. He advocated not merely the separation of the functions of the attorney and the barrister, but the entire abolition of the system of permitting either the client or the attorney to select a trial lawyer. He would have the trial lawyer, as the district attorney is now,—and, in some places, the public defender also,2—a state official, under civil service, drawn by lot for the particular case, in some such way as the jury is now drawn. Other interesting papers were those by Robert A. Waring, on the "Inheritance Tax Act" and by Hon. W. 1. Morrison on the "Workmen's Compensation, Insurance and Safety Act."

The Association elected William J. Hunsaker, of Los Angeles, as President, and T. W. Robinson, of Los Angeles, as Secretary, for the ensuing year.

O. K. M.

² As to the public defender under the Los Angeles Charter see 1 California Law Review, 52.